

THE DILEMMA OF PROTECTION IN THE BOKO HARAM CRISIS: CHALLENGES CONFRONTING AID AGENCIES

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Abstract

In situations of serious human casualties resulting from violent conflicts or disasters, and where the national government is incapacitated in the management of the crises, the international community has a responsibility to protect civilian lives first. This study examined the challenges confronting international aid agencies in offering protection to displaced persons in Bornu State, Nigeria. The study had three specific objectives and one hypothesis. The study adopted the quantitative survey design to assess the opinions of staff of United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Christian Aid (CA), Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), International Office for Migration (IOM), Action Aid (AA) and the World Food Programme (WFP) in Bornu state. The population of the study was 2,500 local and international aid workers in Bornu state. Some of the findings on the security challenges of aid agencies were summarized as: attacks on food vans, kidnap of aid workers, attack on camps, stealing in the camp and inability to access the interior parts of the state. The study recommended that the national institutions such as the police, army and civil defense institutions should be strengthened to provide security for aid workers in the region. The study further recommended that national governments should be encouraged to take responsibility of the victims of internal displacement.

Keyword: *Boko Haram, violent conflicts, civilian protection, aid, humanitarian crisis*

Introduction

Humanitarian organizations or agencies are established to provide several categories of care and support to people suffering the scourges of violent conflicts and natural disasters. Their primary aim is to reduce the impact of the circumstances which compel people to leave their places of habitual residences to seek safety elsewhere. Their roles are numerous; ranging from medical care, security, safety, trauma healing, to food aid, registration matters, helping to find missing relations, provision of temporary shelter and clothing. These agencies work in many parts of the world where there is humanitarian emergency that threatens peoples' lives and livelihood. These agencies can either be governmental or non-governmental. They can also be international or national organizations. They usually funded by international donors who are committed to the reduction of human suffering and death, especially the ones resulting from violence, wars and

natural disasters. Humanitarian agencies are traditionally guided by the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence (Waters, 2001) that drive humanitarian assistance.

Humanitarian organizations – including United Nations agencies such as the World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) etc, international non-governmental organizations such as ActionAid, Danish Refugee Council, International Office for Migration, Christian Aid, and national non-governmental organizations such as Danjuma Foundation, Tony Elumelu Foundation – are working in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states to help the women, children and men who have been forced to flee their homes as a result of the conflict as well as the communities that host and support them. These agencies provide humanitarian assistance in different kinds to people in need. Their roles include and are not limited to protection services, food, shelter, water, medical care, education, latrines and many other forms of practical support that people need in an emergency to survive.

While it is increasingly recognized that humanitarian assistance should be used, to the extent possible, to support livelihoods as a part of life-saving strategies, livelihood support is not without its challenges, particularly in the context of complex emergencies where it may place beneficiaries at further risk than basic relief assistance. Any form of humanitarian assistance, when introduced into a complex emergency typically characterized by a resource-strained environment, can play into the dynamics of the conflict. Food aid, as a very visible form of aid, may be particularly subject to manipulation. Assistance can affect the balance of power and may ultimately exacerbate or prolong a crisis even when it is effective in saving lives and alleviating suffering.

Physical security of both aid workers and the displaced persons is usually a major challenge. Reported cases of attacks, resulting in kidnapping, rape, murder and destruction have put humanitarian workers on alert, and with the fear of venturing into ‘unsafe’ zones ([Sharp](#), [Burkle](#), [Vaughn](#), [Chotani](#) & [Brennan](#), 2002). Apart from physical security, food is a major area of concern for humanitarian agencies because once people are forcefully displaced, their means of livelihoods are affected and they are subjected to food crisis and food insecurity (Janku, 2001). There can even be fights over food among the displaced for survival.

Since the commencement of the war on terrorism in the north east of Nigeria which has led to severe humanitarian catastrophes, several agencies have been involved in the provision of humanitarian assistance to over 2 million persons daily in the north-east (USAID, 2018). This also includes the provision of safe drinking water to 2.4 million people and education to over 1 million children in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa (UNOCHA, 2018). However, these services have had hitches and sometimes the agencies threaten to leave. Because basic is significant to the survival of persons who can not avail themselves of any help, the need to conduct an independent study on the challenges of aid agencies in these areas has become expedient.

Statement of the Problem

Humanitarian assistance in Nigeria's north east region to help victims of violent conflicts has witnessed several obstacles. Despite the numerous number of aid agencies in the region, humanitarian situations continue to deteriorate. Reports from the media noted that some humanitarian agencies had threatened to withdraw due to many challenges beyond their control. This had exacerbated protection crisis in many camps. There have been several cases of malnourished children, pregnant women, and deaths resulting from nutrition-related complications. The intractability of the Boko Haram conflict has inflicted harsh and devastating casualties on a large part of the civilian population. Humanitarian situations continue to rise, and draw international attention, as large numbers of agencies have trooped in to reduce the impact of the conflict on especially vulnerable populations. Constant pictures of gory-looking victims of the violent conflict in the region confirm food crisis in the camps irrespective of the mammoth food agencies in the region.

Objectives of the Study

The purpose of this study was to examine the challenges confronting food aid agencies in crisis environments in Bornu State, Nigeria. To achieve this, the study had three specific objectives where were to:

1. examine security challenges of aid agencies in crisis environments in Bornu state;
2. examine capacity challenges of aid agencies in crisis environments in Bornu state;

3. examine food distribution challenges of aid agencies in crisis environments in Bornu state.

Research Questions

The following three research questions were examined:

1. What are the security challenges encountered by aid agencies in crisis environments in Bornu state?
2. What are the capacity challenges of aid agencies in crisis environments in Bornu state?
3. What are the food distribution challenges of aid agencies in crisis environments in Bornu state?

Hypothesis

The study tested one null hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance.

H₀₁: There is no significant difference in the mean scores of the respondents on the challenges confronting aid agencies in crisis environments in Bornu State.

Delimitation

The study was focused on selected aid agencies operating in Bornu state. The study also addressed the challenges they faced in the discharge of their humanitarian responsibilities.

Theoretical Framework: Liberalism

Liberalism has its roots in stoicisms emphasis on the equality of people and the factors that unite them as opposed to what divides them, be it geographic, cultural, ethnic or political. That is the idea that we are all part of a community of humankind, regardless of our different political communities and culture. Liberalism's central theme of analysis is the individual; as they and their states are claimants to rights. Immanuel Kant States that the imperative for perpetual peace required the transformation of the consciousness of the individual, republican constitutionalism, and a federal contract between states to abolish war; "this Federation can be likened to a permanent peace treaty, rather than a super-state actor or world government" (Akpan, 2012:56). There is a big link between Liberalism and Integration Theories – interdependence. David Mitrany, a pioneer theorist of integration, maintained that transnational cooperation was required

in order to address common challenges (Mitrany, 1943). The integration theory is significant in the fields of diplomacy, international organizations, peace and development studies (Akpan, 2012). David Mitrany's work – *A Working Peace System* published in 1943 hampered on the necessity for a new kind of international system to replace the previous pre-world wars era. Robert Lieber offers an explanation of this idea:

Peaceful change would come not through a shift of national boundaries but by means of actions taken across them. States would not surrender formal Sovereignty which they certainly remained reluctant to do in any case, but would transfer executive authority for specific ends. World Peace could best be promoted if international activities were to be organized around basic functional needs such as transportation, health, and welfare necessities, scientific and cultural activities, trade, and even production... The successful performance of functional activities by bodies that had taken over specific tasks and authorities from governments would bring nations closer together and build a common interest in peace... as governments ceded more and more of their tasks to these worldwide organizations, economic unification would not only promote a working peace, but would build the foundation for broader political agreement" (1973:43).

The relevance of these theories to the current study cannot be overstated. Liberalism and integration emphasize the importance of global integration in solving many of humanity's problems, which include such factors that compel human exodus and humanitarian catastrophes. For instance, addressing many of human problems such as welfare, and other social-economic challenges, through interdependence, could help stem the scourges of warfare and other forms of violent conflicts in Africa, and also prevent humanitarian crises in the event of human displacements. Chris Brown also noted that "the growth of voluntary aid organizations such as Oxfam, and human rights groups like Amnesty International suggests that some concern for the interests and rights of citizens of other states is quite widely accepted; this connotes that a widening sense of identity has accompanied the growth of ever larger networks of interdependence (1995:94-95). The liberal theory contends that people, as well as states can achieve mutual interests and achieve these aims through cooperation, and observance of international laws (Rourke, 2008), this is vital for managing refugee problems. On the whole, liberalists recognize expanding and successful roles of international governmental agencies the United Nations, European Union, AU, Organization of American States etc. in the contemporary world; thereby preventing wars and working for a common good, and avoiding situations that result in population flights.

Humanitarian Diplomacy

The term humanitarian diplomacy has emerged as a significant concept in peace and conflict studies, as well as in forced migration studies. With the rising effects of violent conflicts and national disasters on mankind, practitioners, researchers and governments have come to appreciate the need for greater attention on the needs of people who are forcefully evicted from their places of habitual residence. Pauline Ball (2013) explains the concept as the application of certain modes of diplomacy for the purpose of addressing humanitarian crises. Adam Hansen (2011) elaborated the concept: “it is the coordination of efforts by governments, local and international agencies such as the, World Health Organization (WHO), International Committee of the Red cross (ICRC), World Food Programme (WFP), UNHCR, regional groups etc, in the management of the problems of displaced persons who face dehumanizing experiences ”. According to Harroff-Travel, ICRC’s Political Adviser, the ICRC’s humanitarian diplomacy implies a “strategy adopted to influence parties to armed conflicts and others, states, non-state actors and members of the civil society..., the major purpose is humanitarian, and it is conducted through a network of bilateral and multilateral relationships” (Harroff-Tarvel, 2005:75). The ICRC is one agency which has made concerted efforts in the area of humanitarian diplomacy; its aim has been to reduce the sufferings of victims of armed conflicts.

Ball (2013) argues that humanitarian diplomacy emerged from the principles of common humanity/the responsibility to protect. Hence, states and the international community as whole liaise to find solutions to the problems affecting people who suffer because of violence, wars and natural disasters. Humanitarian diplomacy as a concept only came into limelight in recent time, but the ideology influenced the formulation of international humanitarian laws, as well as the UN 1951 convention on refugee states, and the OAU’s 1969 definition of refugee status. Humanitarian diplomacy has been conducted over the Century to savage the human race (Hansen, 2011). Contemporary intervention events have indicated the relevance of non-state actors in international relations. The rising influence of these non-state actors has also shown that international relations cannot only be conducted between and among states. With the numerous problems facing mankind – hunger, environmental degradation, human rights abuses, poverty, and the effects of unending violent conflicts and warfare, as well as natural disasters – and the roles played by these actors through several diplomatic techniques, their relevance cannot be underestimated.

Through bilateral or multilateral diplomacy, certain players such as parliamentarians, humanitarian agencies, practitioners, non-governmental organizations, religious and political bodies, community leaders, academics are incorporated into negotiating solutions to myriad of problems confronting mankind (Ball, 2013). Specifically, the levels of negotiations provided by multilateral diplomacy creates opportunities for greater solutions to many of Africa's humanitarian challenges.

Burden-sharing

The Burden-sharing principle is in consonance with the principle of common humanity; it proposes a collective action in situations of a problem to protect the interests' of an individual within a group; when the group lacks the capacity to avail itself of certain needs. Bolks and Stoll (2000) argue that "cooperation produces positive-sum benefits", and this results in the will to share burdens among certain actors. Thielemann (2003:256) notes that "at the international level, cooperation is thought to produce a level in the provision of valued public goods which an individual state cannot attain on its own; burden-sharing can thus be seen as a retinal response to the problem of under-provision"

Expanding the principle of burden-sharing, Smith (2001) notes that the refugee situation in Africa required the cooperation of "all" – local and international efforts to address. Human displacements such as refugee flows are associated with burdens which usually overwhelm receiving states, and sending states alike. In explaining the causes of refugees crises, Ashara (2015) observes that the lack of, or inability of the African states to manage refugee problems result in a crisis situation. Hence, the relevance of the burden-sharing principle lies on the international community, especially African states to see the refugee phenomenon as their 'own' problem.

Internal Displacement

Forced human displacements subject the victims to serious dangers. Barnett & Weiss, (2008) observed that irrespective of the mostly coordinated efforts of humanitarian organizations displacement often leads to hunger and illness, both physical and mental. There is loss of dignity, as individuals and families become dependent on others for survival. Children are unable to go to

school and many are not able to get the health care that they need. The effects of displacement can last a lifetime and beyond, damaging the prospects of future generations. For many displaced people in the world, the experience can result in a permanent loss of livelihood or employment opportunities, and can turn into chronic destitution. The effect of this is that people lose contact with their countries, their cultures, and their communities, and this may be devastating to them. Cohen (1999) noted that there is growing awareness within the international community of the magnitude of the crisis of internal displacement that affects between 20 and 25 million people worldwide.

While the responsibility for the protection of IDPs falls first and foremost on national governments and local authorities, it is vital that the international community provide protection and assistance for IDPs in cooperation with the governments concerned. International protection and assistance especially become needed where governments lack the will or the capacity to provide for their own displaced populations, which is tragically often the case in conflicts caused by, or resulting in, acute crises of national identity.

James (2008) sees internal displacement as particularly tragic because of the physical, social and psychological dangers and indignities to which it exposes innocent people. He says the usual causes of the most problematic type of displacement are themselves traumatic: violent conflicts, man-made and natural disasters in which discrimination on a variety of grounds feature prominently. Whether the victims are forced into camps or choose to hide away in unchartered territory or merge into communities that are often equally ravaged, initial displacement nearly always have devastating effect on families, cultures, jobs, education, and the security of a stable society. Above all, he said, it denies innocent people access to food, shelter, and medicine and exposes them to all manners of violence. If left unaddressed, internally displacement may not only cause internal instability but may spill across borders and upset external and regional stability. There is therefore a compelling need for the international community to strengthen its support for national efforts to assist and protect displaced populations (Janku, 2001).

During emergencies or humanitarian crisis, nutrition is of the most hit. Family standards of living are usually characterized associated with access to food security which becomes a problem both

for the affected and those working to help them. A healthy body and healthy living conditions means that the human body can use the nutrients from food and water properly. This means people must take good care of their bodies and surroundings, and must also have good hygiene practices. Adequate water is needed for sanitation and hygiene as well as drinking and cooking (Hansen, 2009). However, the plight of forced displacement has created denial of access to these needs. To have food security people need to have a wide range of foods from all 6 food groups every day (Ekpeyong, 1984). Clean water needs to be available every day, too. These resources must be used wisely and people must plan for the future in addition to their immediate needs.

Children and other vulnerable groups are usually the most affected in situations of humanitarian crises (Cohen, 1999). Inadequate food intake in children is associated with a number of serious health, behavior, and cognitive deficits (Muggah, 2003). Children who are food-insecure are in poorer health and are more likely to be developmentally at-risk than non-food-insecure children, according to parental reports (Smith, 2001). Infants who experience food insecurity are more likely to have insecure attachment relationships, and to perform more poorly on tests of cognitive development (Cohen, 1999). Children in food-insecure households have more stomach aches, frequent headaches, and colds than children who are in food-secure households. Higher rates of hospitalization, iron deficiency anemia, and chronic health conditions are reported among food-insecure children (Wet, 2002). Studies also report that food insecurity is associated with higher rates of behavioral problems in 3-year-olds; in school-aged children, psychosocial deficits, as well as higher anxiety and depression; and, in adolescents, higher rates of depressive disorder and suicidal symptoms (Hansen, 2009). Food insecurity, particularly when experienced in the earliest primary grades, also has a significant detrimental effect on non-cognitive classroom measures, such as interpersonal skills, self-control, and the group of competencies (including attentiveness, persistence, and flexibility) termed “approaches to learning (Smith, 2001).”

Food Aid

As an important sector in humanitarian assistance, food aid has taken the interest of researchers and policy makers in recent time. Food aid normally forms an important component of the basic relief package, which ideally also includes clean water, emergency health care and shelter (Janku, 2001). However, while the first priority of organizations like the World Food Programme is to use food aid to address the needs of those who are unable to meet their current needs and are at risk of death in the short term, there is growing recognition that food aid and other assistance can save more lives in the long term if it is also provided to those whose livelihoods are at risk of failure (James, 2008). This requires broadening the traditional focus of humanitarian assistance - those who have already depleted their assets and are destitute - to include those who risk losing their assets (Larry, 2009).

By targeting the latter group with food aid and other relief assistance, humanitarian organizations can help prevent them from depleting their assets, thus supporting an entire community's capacity to cope with crisis today and avoiding negative impacts to their health and future wellbeing (James, 2008). According to the latest FAO estimates, the number of undernourished people in the world increased from around 870 million in 2004–6 to over one billion in 2009, mainly as a consequence of high food prices and the global economic recession (FAO, 2009). The humanitarian system faces a number of new and ongoing challenges including climate change, volatile food prices, the financial crisis and the HIV/AIDS and flu pandemics. Longer-term issues, notably rapid urbanisation and ageing populations, will also require adaptation. The contexts in which emergency and transitional aid are needed are constantly shifting (Berman, Felter, Shapiro & Troland, 2013). The 2000s started with drought in the Horn of Africa, which highlighted the protracted crises that these countries face, in terms of repeatedly high levels of food insecurity and acute malnutrition. In fact, governmental humanitarian assistance grew in 2008 despite a reduced growth rate of GNI in many countries (Larry, 2009). Given the unprecedented challenges outlined above, and the interplay between them, it is anticipated that humanitarian and food assistance needs will continue to increase.

Challenges to Aid

Providing food and other relief assistance in ways that supports livelihoods is not without its challenges, however, and may not always be appropriate (Pain & Sue, 2002). The many challenges that thwart relief efforts in complex emergencies, such as access constraints, insecurity, targeting dilemmas and weak local/national capacity, may be even more acute when attempting to programme assistance in ways that support livelihoods. Supporting livelihoods requires careful analysis of all these constraints, along with early intervention, good multi-sectoral programming, strong partnerships and adequate resources (USAID, 2002). Humanitarian workers face a number of critical challenges carrying out their work in conflict situations. Humanitarian access is commonly understood as access for assistance and protection to civilians during armed conflict, as well as military *hors de combat*. It encapsulates issues of freedom of movement of international aid agencies, freedom of access to populations in need and safety and protection of humanitarian personnel, aid and property. When conflict prevents civilians from accessing food and other essential requirements through normal channels, free passage of relief supplies to civilians in need should be granted, as laid down in the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their two Protocols of 1977 (UN, 2002).

Determining the number of people in need of assistance and the level of assistance required and keeping up-to-date with changes is particularly difficult in complex emergencies (WFP, 2002). Clearly, such work is hindered when there is not full, consistent access to affected people and areas. In addition, lack of strong public institutions or reliable government counterparts results in serious information gaps, doubts about the reliability of many data and difficulty in verifying information, particularly in the initial stages of an operation ([Sharp](#), Burkle, [Vaughn](#), [Chotani](#) & [Brennan](#), 2002). These problems are compounded in situations where warring parties seek to provide or withhold food in order to meet their own political/military objectives.

Misappropriation of aid, including food commodities, takes many different forms including direct theft from warehouses or during transport, post-distribution “taxation” where recipients are forced to turn over a certain portion of received commodities, over- or under-distribution on the basis of inflated registration or exclusion of marginalized groups, or leakage due to weak staff or implementing partner capacity to carry out needs assessments and implement targeted distributions (Pain & Sue, 2002). In any of its forms, misappropriation is a serious issue as it implies that part of the assistance does not reach the intended beneficiaries. Moreover,

misappropriated commodities could end up playing some role in sustaining belligerents, which is certainly not the intention of humanitarian assistance. (WFP, 2002)

Over 230 UN staff members have died from malicious acts since January 1992, illustrating the extreme danger of the UN's work in complex emergencies (UN, 2002). In some situations, WFP has been forced to run operations remotely from neighbouring countries/regions which presents a major disadvantage to operations, including adding costs and preventing close relationships with local authorities, the affected populations and partners on the ground.

The lack of appropriate resources is often a serious constraint to meeting the humanitarian needs in complex emergencies as it undermines the programming strategy with negative impacts on quality and results of operations. Limited resources often prevent humanitarian agencies from programming the right mix of food and non-food relief assistance to address the total needs resulting from the crisis (Pain & Sue, 2002). Unfortunately, while the high media profile of many complex emergencies at their onset typically results in substantial initial funding commitments, as conflicts turn into a protracted crisis, "donor fatigue" can set in and resources dwindle, especially as new crises occur elsewhere (Barnett & Weiss, 2008).

Crisis environments are environments hit by natural or man-made disasters. They are characterized by the demand for humanitarian assistance. Pictures of hungry and malnourished children, pregnant women, wounded and sick people are everywhere. When these problems become difficult to manage then a humanitarian crisis may have arisen (Nunn & Qian, 2014). People need food to survive. During a complex emergency, a family's normal means of accessing food may become disrupted, due to loss of crop or livestock, inability to engage in normal means of living or reduced remuneration and/or separation from family and community due to death or displacement (Larry, 2009). Food aid normally forms an important component of the basic relief package, which ideally also includes clean water, emergency health care and shelter.

Methodology

Research Design: The study adopted the survey design to evaluate the opinions of staff of selected food aid agencies in Bornu state.

Area of the study: The study was conducted in Maiduguri, the capital city of Bornu state, Nigeria. It is one of the three north eastern states (the others are Adamawa and Yobe) that have been under the siege of the Boko Haram insurgency that has displaced millions of persons from the home, causing many deaths.

Population of the study: The population of the study was 2,500 local and international aid workers working with 16 agencies to help victims of the violent conflicts in Bornu state.

Sample and sampling technique: The simple random sampling technique was used to select 60 aid workers working with seven agencies specialized in providing food aid for the study (making up 25 males and 35 females). The agencies that participated in the study are: United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Christian Aid (CA), Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), International Office for Migration (IOM), Action Aid (AA) and the World Food Programme (WFP).

Instrumentation

The instrument for the study was a structured questionnaire titled: ‘Aid Agencies’ Challenges in Bornu’ (AACB). The questionnaire was designed on a four-point rating scale of Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Strongly Disagree (SD) and Disagree (D) with scores 4, 3, 2, and 1. The instrument was validated by two staff of the Nigerian Red Cross Port Harcourt office.

Administration and collection of instrument

The questionnaire was administered using both the direct contact approach and telephone interviews (5).

Data analysis

The data from the field were analyzed using mean and standard deviation. An average mean of 2.50 was chosen; the implication was that any item that scored below 2.50 was rejected, and any

item that scored 2.50 and above was accepted. t-test was used to test the null hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance.

Results

The results are presented in the tables below.

Research Question 1: What are the security challenges encountered by aid agencies in crisis environments in Bornu state?

Table 1: Mean and standard deviation of respondents on the security challenges encountered by aid agencies in crisis environments in Bornu state

Security Challenges	\bar{X}_1	\bar{X}_2	SD	Decision
1. Attacks on food vans hinder the aid process	2.75	2.62	0.68	Accepted
2. Kidnap of aid workers	3.51	3.30	0.72	Accepted
3. Attack on camps can halt food aid to people in need	3.48	3.20	0.67	Accepted
4. Stealing in the camp can discourage aid workers	2.72	3.43	0.74	Accepted
5. Inability to access the interiors areas	2.73	3.31	0.67	Accepted

Key: \bar{X}_1 = mean score for males; \bar{X}_2 = mean score for females; SD= Standard Deviation

In the table above, findings on the security challenges of aid agencies were summarized as: attacks on food vans, kidnap of aid workers, attack on camps, stealing in the camp and inability to access the interior parts of the state. The table revealed that the respondents accepted all the items because they had mean scores above the 2.50 decision level.

Research Question 2: What are the capacity challenges of aid agencies in crisis environments in Bornu state?

Table 2: Mean and standard deviation of respondents on the capacity challenges of food aid agencies in crisis environments in Bornu state?

Capacity Challenges	\bar{X}_1	\bar{X}_2	SD	Decision
6. Poor food storage facilities	2.51	2.62	0.61	Accepted
7. Inexperienced aid workers can hinder food aid	3.32	2.84	0.68	Accepted
8. Donor fatigue can suspend food aid	3.71	3.23	0.63	Accepted
9. Non-nutritional professions can affect the prosecution of food aid	3.63	3.19	0.73	Accepted
10. Inadequate food aid personnel	2.83	3.01	0.67	Accepted

Key: \bar{X}_1 = mean score for males; \bar{X}_2 = mean score for females; SD= Standard Deviation

Table 2 summarized the mean scores and standard deviations of the respondents on capacity challenges of aid agencies in crisis environments in Bornu state. The result showed that all items (poor food storage facilities, inexperienced aid workers, donor fatigue, non-professionals in nutrition, inadequate food aid personnel, ineffective food designs) were accepted because they had mean scores of above the 2.50.

Research Question 3: What are the food distribution challenges of food aid agencies in crisis environments in Bornu state?

Table 3: Mean and standard deviation of the respondents on food distribution challenges of food aid agencies in crisis environments in Bornu state?

Food Distribution Challenges	\bar{X}_1	\bar{X}_2	SD	Decision
11. Bias in distribution	3.51	3.25	0.71	Accepted
12. Poor food distribution process	3.24	3.41	0.66	Accepted
13. Food not adequate in nutrients	3.11	3.26	0.66	Accepted
14. Food usually not enough for the population affected	3.45	3.25	0.68	Accepted
15. Distribution process does not prioritize vulnerable groups	2.64	2.71	0.67	Accepted

Key: \bar{X}_1 = mean score for males; \bar{X}_2 = mean score for females; SD= Standard Deviation

Table 3 summarized the mean scores and standard deviations of the respondents on the food distribution challenges of food aid agencies in crisis environments in Bornu state. The results showed that all the respondents accepted all items (bias in distribution, poor food distribution process, food not adequate in nutrients, food not usually enough, distribution process does not prioritize vulnerable groups) because the mean scores were above the \bar{X} 2.50.

Hypothesis Testing:

H₀₁: There is no significant difference in the mean scores of the respondents on the challenges confronting food aid agencies in crisis environments in Bornu State.

Table 4: t-test analysis of the mean responses of on respondents on the challenges confronting aid agencies in crisis environments in Bornu State

Respondents	N	\bar{X}	SD	P-value	DF	t-Cal	t-Crit	RMK
Male	25	3.32	0.75	0.03	58	1.316	1.558	Sig
Female	35	3.62	0.72					

The t-test result in Table 4 above showed no significant difference between the mean responses of the returnees at 0.05 level of significance, t-crit value of 1.558 > t-calculated value of 1.316 at the same level of significance, thus H_{01} was accepted.

Discussion

The findings on the security challenges of aid agencies were summarized as: attacks on food vans, kidnap of aid workers, attack on camps, stealing in the camp and inability to access the interior parts of the state. These findings are in agreement with Barnett & Weiss (2008) who noted that security is major issue in humanitarian assistance. Workers may face attacks and hijack of the foods for distributions. Lack of security limits freedom of movement of international aid workers, freedom of access to populations in need and safety and protection of humanitarian personnel, aid and property and this will imply that people in need suffer more when they do not get access to foods. When conflict prevents civilians from accessing food and other essential requirements through normal channels, free passage of relief supplies to civilians in need should be granted, as laid down in the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their two Protocols of 1977 (UN, 2002). Pain & Sue (2002) noted that many challenges that thwart relief efforts in complex emergencies, such as access constraints, insecurity, targeting dilemmas and weak local/national capacity, may be even more acute when attempting to programme assistance in ways that support livelihoods.

Victims of violence/displacements are those who require access to adequate nutrient-rich food and safe water as essential for protecting the safety, health and well-being of millions. There is a clear link between nutrition and public health. Communicable diseases brought on in part by malnutrition are responsible for millions of preventable deaths each year. Mass population movements can result in high rates of malnutrition, sickness and death, but when insecurity prevents access to food aid, the situations can be devastating.

The findings on capacity challenges of aid agencies in crisis environments in Bornu state included poor food storage facilities, inexperienced aid workers, donor fatigue, non-professionals in nutrition, inadequate food aid personnel, and ineffective food designs. Pain & Sue (2002) support this finding by noting that limited resources often prevent humanitarian agencies from programming the right mix of food and non-food relief assistance to address the total needs

resulting from the crisis (Pain & Sue, 2002). Donor groups or individuals may be exhausted or committed. At any stage of this scenario, the displaced person are in danger of food shortage and hunger.

Shortage of food also makes people more vulnerable to sexual abuse and exploitation ([Sharp](#), Burkle, [Vaughn](#), [Chotani](#) & [Brennan](#), 2002). Poor quality diets and vitamin and mineral deficiencies contribute to delayed childhood development, causing irreparable damage. Additionally, for those who live with chronic illnesses, such as HIV/AIDS, adequate nutrition is vital in maintaining the immune system. Some women may become malnourished, while others can lose the confidence or strength to breastfeed their infants (WFP, 2002). With support networks shattered, there may be even more demands on a mothers time to get food for her family, find shelter and plan for an increasingly insecure future.

Finally, findings on the food distribution challenges of food aid agencies in crisis environments revealed bias in distribution, poor food distribution process, food not adequate in nutrients, food not usually enough, distribution process does not prioritize vulnerable groups. [Sharp](#), Burkle, [Vaughn](#), [Chotani](#) & [Brennan](#) (2002) had noted that In any of its forms, misappropriation is a serious issue as it implies that part of the assistance does not reach the intended beneficiaries. Moreover, misappropriated commodities could end up playing some role in sustaining belligerents, which is certainly not the intention of humanitarian assistance. (WFP, 2002).

Micronutrient deficiencies represent a largely invisible but often crippling form of malnutrition, affecting birth and maternal outcomes and child development and learning potential. Iron deficiency anaemia and vitamin A deficiency are amongst the most visible forms of micronutrient deficiencies in refugee populations, but these are just the tip of the iceberg and in reality the refugee populations often suffer from multiple micronutrient deficiencies (Shah, 2007). The High Commissioner for Refugees has put a high priority on improving the nutritional status of refugee populations and decreasing the burden of anaemia and other micronutrient deficiencies.

Conclusion

This study had examined the challenges that confronted aid agencies in crisis areas of Bornu state. The study revealed that insecurity, donor fatigue, inexperienced staff, protracted nature of the conflict resulting in simultaneous flows of displacements, inadequate personnel are some of the challenges that confronted food aid in the area. The study concludes that this situation is responsible for the precarious nature of humanitarian situation in Bornu state.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made:

1. The study recommended that the national institutions such as the police, army and civil defense institutions should be strengthened to provide security for aid workers in the region.
2. The study further recommended that national governments should be encouraged to take responsibility of the victims of internal displacement.
3. The aid agencies should embark on occasional training and retraining of their staff on humanitarian intelligence.

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